

Message Text

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51

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 USIA-06

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1007
INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS SUMMARY

REF: STATE 124894

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PARA 9 OF REFTEL NOTED THAT SERIES
OF CABLES SUMMARIZING US DAILY PRESS ITEMS ON DEFENSE,
EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL-RELATED SUBJECTS
WAS BEING SUSPENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. WE REGRET
THIS DECISION AND STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO CONTINUE THIS EXTREMELY USEFUL SERVICE
TO THE FIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN SOME EIGHTEEN
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MONTHS AGO, WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE WASHINGTON PRESS

SUMMARY CABLES IN DETAIL. WE HAVE FOUND THEM IN-
VALUABLE IN ALERTING US IN A TIMELY FASHION TO
SIGNIFICANT ARTICLES OR EDITORIALS IN THE US PRESS
BEARING ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE SUMMARY CABLES HAVE PLACED US IN A POSITION TO
REQUEST FULL TEXTS OF ITEMS WHICH APPEARED TO BE OF
PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR OUR WORK HERE.

4. MANY SUCH ITEMS HAVE BEEN OF DIRECT USE
TO US HERE IN OUR DAILY CONTACTS WITH BOTH ALLIED AND
WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS. PERTINENT RECENT EXAMPLES
INCLUDE US PRESS REPORTING AND COMMENTARY ON THE FORMATION
OF TWO NEW US COMBAT BRIGADES IN THE FRG, THE NUNN REPORT
ON LEVELS OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE, AND CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION ON US TROOP LEVELS ABROAD. SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ARE
FOLLOWED CLOSELY BOTH BY ALLIED AND WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS
HERE, AND HAVE BECOME SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION BOTH WITHIN
THE WESTERN AD HOC GROUP IN VIENNA AND IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
THEMSELVES.

5. THOUGH FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SUCH
DEVELOPMENTS ARE OF COURSE AVAILABLE TO US, NATO AND
WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS DERIVE MOST OF THEIR
INFORMATION ON SUCH SUBJECTS FROM THE PRESS. IT IS
ESSENTIAL FOR US IN DEALING WITH THE INQUIRIES AND
CONCERNS OF OUR ALLIES, AND -- MOST IMPORTANLTY -- IN
DEALING WITH TACTICAL POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE EAST
WITH RESPECT TO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
THEMSELVES, TO BE AWARE IN A TIMELY FASHION OF THE PUBLIC
SOURCES ON WHICH MUCH OF THEIR INFORMATION IS BASED.

6. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN OUR FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH
WESTERN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES HERE TO BE FULLY AWARE
OF THE TREND OF OPINION IN THE WESTERN, AND PARTICULARLY
THE US, PRESS. THIS DELEGATION, AND THE WESTERN AD HOC
GROUP GENERALLY, PLACES A HIGH PRIORITY ON DEALINGS
WITH THE PRESS. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR WESTERN INTERESTS TO
MAINTAIN A RELATIVELY FAVORABLE WESTERN PRESS VIEW OF
THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE MUCH OF THIS EFFORT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN
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IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE, AN IMPORTANT SHARE OF THE WORK MUST
NECESSARILY BE DONE AT THE ACTUAL SITE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
TO PERFORM THIS JOB PROPERLY, THE DELEGATION NEEDS TIMELY
INFORMATION ON US PRESS TRENDS.

7. FOR THE REASONS CITED, WE HAVE FOUND THE
DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS SUMMARY CABLES TO BE AN
INVALUABLE TO OUR WORK HERE. WE STRONGLY URGE

THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REINSTATE
THIS CABLE SERVICE IMMEDIATELY.RESOR

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